Statement

Per capita consumption during 1983 (8th round of NST)

(Rs. per month)

Items	Rural	%	Urban	%
Food	73.73	65.57	96.97	59.12
Clothing	9.66	8.59	12.52	7.63
Footwear	1.11	0.99	1.80	1.10
Fuel & Light	7.92	7.04	11.36	6.93
Durable goods	2.55	2.27	3.69	2.25
Total Expenditure	112.45	100.00	164.03	100.00

Demand for Raising the Price of Natural Rubber

3400. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ruling left Democratic Front and a delegation of opposition United Democratic Front in Kerala have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister for increase in the minimum price of natural rubber and restrict the import of number of items which are grown in the State and also urged the Prime Minister to modify the import-export policy to remove the provisions which are inconsistant with the national policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) There have been representations for raising the price of natural rubber as also in respect of the current import policy for certain agricultural items grown in Kerala. Import of natural rubber is canalised through STC. Its import is made to meet the demand-supply gap and it is always the endeavour of the Government to limit imports to the extent necessary to meet this gap. Government considers revision of the price band for natural rubber on the basis of the variation in the factors taken into account for the fixation of the price band.

There have been representations in regard to coconut oil, copra, coir, pepper and certain spices. Except for spices—Cloves, Cinnamon/Cassia, Nutmeg and Mace, there has been no change in the import policy for other items. Import of the said spices was de-canalised having regard to the rise in prices and problems in import and distribution consequent on canalisation.

Unrest among Buddhist in Ladakh

3401. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of widespread unrest among

the Buddhists in Ladakh and that Ladakhi Buddhists are demonstrating almost daily as some Christian missionaries were taking away the children of illiterate Ladakhi Buddhists out of the district on some pretext to convert them to Christianity; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what measures are being taken to prevent the activities of christian missionaries from converting the Buddhists children into Christianity in this sensitive border district of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have informed that the Christian missionaries had admitted 50 children belonging to Leh in one of their schools in Srinagar where they are provided board and lodge. A section of Buddhist community at Leh apprehended that these children may be converted into Christianity. The Buddhist Association, Leh had been demanding the return of these children from Srinagar to Leh. As per the report, the State Government addressed communication to each parent to indicate whether they would like to withdraw their wards from the school for which the State Government would provide necessary assistance as well. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have also informed that the students can be withdrawn only on the specific request of the parents.

Increase in administered prices of certain items

3402. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that administered prices of certain items produced by the public sector corporations have been recently increased;

(b) whether this has resulted in the increase of prices of other essencial commodities; and

(c) if so, whether there is any move to assess the need for administered prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) There have been no significant revisions in administered prices durng the current financial year.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Shifting of Textile units outside *Metropolitan areas*

3403. SHRI SHANKAR SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's policy regarding shifting of textile units, both closed and working from metropolitan areas to rural areas;

(b) what is the plan to make use of the land occupied by closed textile units which work below their 50 per cent capacity; and

(c) what are the details of the policy contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) Requests for shifting of textile units from metropolitan areas to rural areas are considered under the locational guidelines of the prevailing Industrial Licensing Policy. The power to permit alternative use of land occupied by closed textile mills, etc., vests in the competent Urban Land Ceiling Authority|State Government concerned.

Textile policy

3404. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total number of textile mills